

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 7, second paragraph, please amend as indicated below:

Further, the methods and algorithms used to determine whether or not the exposure time or gain should be adjusted are many and varied. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,734,426 to Dong and assigned to the assignee of the present invention shows one method of determining adjustments to exposure or gain. As another example, our ~~co-~~pending—U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/005,776, now U.S. Patent No. 6,859,230, ~~09/~~_____ filed November 7, 2001 entitled “METHOD OF FAST AUTOMATIC EXPOSURE OR GAIN CONTROL IN A MOS IMAGE SENSOR”, incorporated herein by reference and assigned to the same assignee as the present invention, discloses another technique. In any event, various methods are possible for determining when to adjust exposure time or gain. In general, these methods attempt to maintain the average magnitude of the output signals from the pixels within a relatively narrow range, e.g. between V_{HI} and V_{LO} . The narrow range is also referred to as a “stable range”, where no further adjustments to exposure time or gain is required.